

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3. This sheet, which includes Fig. 3, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-17 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-13, and 15-17 are amended, and Claim 4 is canceled by the present amendment. The amendments correct matters of form or are supported in the originally filed disclosure at least at Claim 4. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Drawings were objected to; Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Shirakawa, et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0086259, herein "Shirakawa259"); Claims 2, 3, and 7-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shirakawa259 in view of Shirakawa, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,222,161, herein "Shirakawa161"); Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shirakawa259 in view of Shirakawa161, further in view of Boshita (JP 2002-359175); and Claims 4-6 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 4-6.

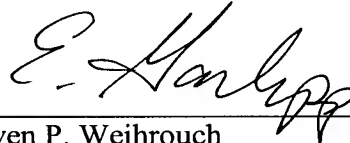
The Specification and Fig. 3 are amended to address the objection in the outstanding Office Action relating to Claim 6. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Drawings be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 1 and 16 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 4, which was indicated as allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of Claims 2, 3, and 7-15, which depend from Claim 1, Claim 16, and Claim 17, which depends therefrom, be withdrawn.

Accordingly, the outstanding rejections are traversed and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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